



April 14, 2020

Montgomery County Council
Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Members of the Montgomery County Council,

RE: Expedited Bill 17-20, Carryout Bag Tax – Suspension (Opposed)

Dear friends

Please don't suspend the 5 cent plastic bag tax.

1. People have become accustomed to paying for the bags and instead, bringing in reusable bags. This is huge. Behavior change.
2. Many groceries still permit use of reusable bags if the patrons bag their own (which many of us already do. If not, people can use paper bags at no cost. This is no greater risk to employees.
3. Plastic has been tested for its retention of Covid-19, and it lasts longer on that surface than many others, so it's not a way to eliminate transmission of Covid-19.
4. Suspension of the bag tax will likely change back peoples' behaviors, and we'll see more bags thrown out onto streets and parks and creeks – with even more hazardous conditions created by this trash.
5. The revenue stream, though minor to individuals, is significant for environmental funds available to the county.

While we understand that local businesses have been placed in dire circumstances by the coronavirus pandemic, they require more meaningful assistance than that provided by this superficial and ill-thought out proposal

Friends of Sligo Creek is a nonprofit community organization dedicated to protecting, improving and appreciating the ecological health of Sligo Creek Park and its surrounding watershed.

Thank you.

Kit Gage
Advocacy Director
Friends of Sligo Creek